

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A device comprising:
  - a first memory storing a list of one or more ports;
  - a second memory storing a list of one or more active sessions, each of said one or more active sessions identifying a port, a user identified on said port;
  - a verifier communicating with said first memory and said second memory, said verifier periodically checking a session in said list of one or more sessions, said verifier searching for said user in said list of one or more ports if said session is inactive, said verifier updating said session if said user is identified on an other port.
2. The device according to claim 1 wherein said verifier further deactivates said session if said user is not identified on any port.
3. The device according to claim 1 wherein said verifier further activates an adjustable timer when the user is not identified on said port, and deactivates the active session for the user if the user is not identified on any port at the expiration of said adjustable timer.
4. The device according to claim 1 wherein said verifier identifies said user on any port with a Media Access Control address.

5. The device according to claim 1 wherein said verifier updates by associating the active session with the port on which user is identified.
6. The device according to claim 1 wherein said verifier searching and updating depends on the status of a port hopping setting, said searching and said updating allowed when said port hopping setting is enabled, said searching and said updating disallowed when said port hopping setting is disabled.
7. The device according to claim 1 wherein the active session of the user at said other port retains a policy setting of the user at said port.
8. The device according to claim 1 wherein said verifier searching further comprises searching for said user on one or more network connectivity devices having one or more ports.
9. A method for maintaining an active session for a user changing ports, the method comprising:
- periodically checking the active session for the user, the active session associated with a port, the user identified on said port;
  - searching for the user on other ports if the user is not identified on said port; and
  - updating the active session for the user if the user is identified on an other port.
10. The method according to claim 9 further comprising:

deactivating the active session for the user if the user is not identified on any port.

11. The method according to claim 9 further comprising:  
activating an adjustable timer when the user is not identified on said port; and  
deactivating the active session for the user if the user is not identified on any port  
at the expiration of said adjustable timer.
12. The method according to claim 9 wherein the user is identified on any port with a  
Media Access Control address.
13. The method according to claim 9 wherein said updating further comprises  
associating the active session with the port on which the user is found.
14. The method according to claim 9 wherein said searching and said updating  
depend on the status of a port hopping setting, said searching and said updating allowed  
when said port hopping setting is enabled, said searching and said updating disallowed  
when said port hopping setting is disabled.
15. The method according to claim 9 wherein the active session of the user at said  
other port retains a policy setting of the user at said port.

16. The method according to claim 9 wherein said searching further comprises searching for the user on one or more network connectivity devices having one or more ports.

17. A device for maintaining an active session for a user changing ports, the device comprising:

means for periodically checking the active session for the user, the active session associated with a port, the user identified on said port;

means for searching for the user on other ports if the user is not identified on said port; and

means for updating the active session for the user if the user is identified on an other port.

18. The device according to claim 17 further comprising:

means for deactivating the active session for the user if the user is not identified on any port.

19. The device according to claim 17 further comprising:

means for activating an adjustable timer when the user is not identified on said port; and

means for deactivating the active session for the user if the user is not identified on any port at the expiration of said adjustable timer.

20. The device according to claim 17 wherein the user is identified on any port with a Media Access Control address.

21. The device according to claim 17 wherein said means for updating further comprises means for associating the active session with the port on which the user is found.

22. The device according to claim 17 wherein said means for searching and said means for updating depend on the status of a port hopping setting, said means for searching and said means for updating allowed when said port hopping setting is enabled, said means for searching and said means for updating disallowed when said port hopping setting is disabled.

23. The device according to claim 17 wherein the active session of the user at said other port retains a policy setting of the user at said port.

24. The device according to claim 17 wherein said means for searching further comprises means for searching for the user on one or more network connectivity devices having one or more ports.

25. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions readable by the machine to perform a method for maintaining an active session for a user changing ports, the method comprising:

periodically checking the active session for the user, the active session associated with a port, the user identified on said port;

searching for the user on other ports if the user is not identified on said port; and

updating the active session for the user if the user is identified on an other port.

26. The program storage device according to claim 25 further comprising:

deactivating the active session for the user if the user is not identified on any port.

27. The program storage device according to claim 25 further comprising:

activating an adjustable timer when the user is not identified on said port; and

deactivating the active session for the user if the user is not identified on any port at the expiration of said adjustable timer.

28. The program storage device according to claim 25 wherein the user is identified on any port with a Media Access Control address.

29. The program storage device according to claim 25 wherein said updating further comprises associating the active session with the port on which the user is found.

30. The program storage device according to claim 25 wherein said searching and said updating depend on the status of a port hopping setting, said searching and said updating allowed when said port hopping setting is enabled, said searching and said updating disallowed when said port hopping setting is disabled.
31. The program storage device according to claim 25 wherein the active session of the user at said other port retains a policy setting of the user at said port.
32. The program storage device according to claim 25 wherein said searching further comprises searching for the user on one or more network connectivity devices having one or more ports.